

Message Text

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SUBJECT: APRIL 25 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. MURREY MARDER OF WASHINGTON POST SAID SECRETARY VANCE REPORTED TO PRESIDENT CARTER YESTERDAY THAT ONE OBSTACLE TO NEW U.S.-SOVIET NUCLEAR ARMS PACT WAS OVERCOME IN MOSCOW BUT TOO MANY OTHERS REMAIN TO FORECAST WHEN AN ACCORD MIGHT BE CAPPED AT SUMMIT CONFERENCE. HE SAID ADMINISTRATION SOURCES CONFIRMED THAT U.S. WOULD BE FREE TO TRANSFER CRUISE MISSILE TECHNOLOGY TO ITS NATO ALLIES UNDER TERMS PROJECTED IN VANCE'S TALKS IN MOSCOW. "IN ACCORD WITH CAR-
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TER ADMINISTRATION'S NEW EFFORTS TO AVOID AROUSING EXPECTATIONS THAT CAN COLLAPSE, OFFICIALS MADE NO ATTEMPT TO TRUMPET MARGINAL GAIN," MARDER REPORTED. HE SAID VANCE DECLINED "TO TIE HIMSELF TO CLAIM THAT NEW NUCLEAR ACCORD WILL BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR, ALTHOUGH CARTER OFTEN HAS DONE SO IN PAST." POST CORRESPONDENT SAID DISCUSSIONS VANCE HAD IN MOSCOW "APPEAR TO HAVE MITIGATED -- BUT NOT TO WIPE OUT" -- BREZHNEV'S EARLIER CHARGES THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS INDECISIVE AND VACILLATING. WHEN U.S. DELEGATION LEFT MOSCOW SUNDAY, MARDER SAID, MOSCOW-BASED COMMUNIST REPORTERS

WERE BEING TOLD THAT USSR WAS "SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED" BY NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS THAT VANCE BROUGHT WITH HIM. IN ADDITION, SOVIET DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID THEY STILL HAD DOUBTS ABOUT ABILITY OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO MOVE FORWARD RAPIDLY TO COMPLETE PROLONGED NEGOTIATIONS. "WITH THIS POSTURE, SOVIET UNION GAINS PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE OF CLAIMING, AS IT IS DOING, THAT SOVIET 'CONSTRUCTIVE POSITION' IS DRIVING FORCE IN NEGOTIATIONS," MARDER POINTED OUT. AT SAME TIME, CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS TURNED TO "EXTREMELY GUARDED POSITION" ON DISCLOSING WHAT TOOK PLACE IN MOSCOW. MARDER SAID CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S "ORIGINAL REACH FOR 'BOLD LEAP FORWARD' IN NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL YEAR AGO, AS OFFICIALS RECALLED IT YESTERDAY, HOWEVER, WAS OVERAMBITIOUS AND BADLY COORDINATED, LANDING ADMINISTRATION IN BITTER CROSSFIRE OF RECRIMINATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION."

2. BERNARD GWERTZMAN OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID VANCE, ASKED IF THIS NEW, TIGHT-LIPPED POLICY ON DISCUSSING NEGOTIATIONS CONSTITUTED SHIFT FROM PREVIOUS PRACTICES, RESPONDED, "YES IT IS CERTAINLY SHIFT AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED. OUR VISIT TO MOSCOW THIS TIME WAS MUCH MORE PRODUCTIVE."
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GWERTZMAN SAID AMERICAN OFFICIALS, WHILE NOT PROVIDING ACTUAL LANGUAGE OF TENTATIVELY AGREED-ON CLAUSE REGARDING CRUISE MISSILE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, EMPHASIZED THAT IT MET NEEDS OF U.S. ALLIES. TWO MAJOR AREAS ON WHICH DISAGREEMENT REMAINS, GWERTZMAN SAID, ARE U.S. EFFORT TO OBTAIN SPECIFIC WRITTEN LIMITATIONS FROM MOSCOW ON BACKFIRE BOMBER, AND IN AGREEING ON CLAUSE IN PROTOCOL LIMITING MODERNIZATION OF EXISTING MISSILES AND BARRING NEW TYPES OF MISSILES WITH CERTAIN AGREED EXCEPTIONS. "REPORTERS WERE TOLD THAT THERE HAD BEEN 'SOME PROGRESS' ON MODERNIZATION QUESTION. BUT NO SPECIFICS WERE PROVIDED. THERE WAS APPARENTLY LITTLE OR NO PROGRESS ON BACKFIRE QUESTION."

3. RICHARD L. STROUT OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR SAID MIDDLE EAST ISSUE IS EXPECTED TO EXPLODE IN CONGRESS THIS WEEK OVER CARTER'S PROPOSED SALE OF SOPHISTICATED JET FIGHTERS TO SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT, OVER PRO-ISRAEL PROTEST. "AS PART OF LARGER MIDDLE EAST CONTROVERSY SALE MIGHT BE NUMBER ONE FOREIGN POLICY BATTLE OF SPRING. AND IT ALREADY HAS BROUGHT PROPAGANDA BARRAGE UNPRECEDENTED IN RECENT TIMES." DON OBERDORFER AND EDWARD WALSH OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT SENATOR FRANK CHURCH ARGUED THAT PROPOSED SALES OF SOPHISTICATED WARPLANES TO ISRAEL, EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS SEPARATE DEALS RATHER THAN BEING LINKED. CHURCH SAID ATTEMPT TO "PACKAGE" THESE SALES WOULD SET

PRECEDENT THAT WOULD THWART OBJECTIVE CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW. POST CORRESPONDENTS SAID WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JODY POWELL TOLD NEWSMEN PRESIDENT IS DETERMINED TO WIN APPROVAL OF ALL SALES OR TO SCRAP ENTIRE PACKAGE. BALTIMORE SUN EDITORIALY ASSERTED THAT CARTER "WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO THINK AGAIN BEFORE PLUNGING AHEAD TOMORROW WITH HIS 'PACKAGE' ARMS DEAL FOR MIDDLE EAST.... HE SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER HIS PACKAGE

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APPROACH IS TOO PROVOCATIVE TO HELP PEACE PROCESS OR TOO CRUDE TO GET THROUGH CONGRESS. RATHER THAN RISK ALL-OR-NOTHING, PRESIDENT SHOULD BE 'FORCEFUL' ENOUGH TO MAKE SURE HE GETS SOMETHING."

4. IN SYNDICATED COLUMN TITLED "HIGH STAKES OF SALT," MARQUIS CHILDS SAID AS NOW CONTEMPLATED BY VANCE AND WARNKE, SALT SEQUENCE WILL BE AS FOLLOWS: "AN AGREEMENT EMBODIED IN TREATY WILL BE REACHED TOWARD END OF JUNE. REQUIRING CAREFUL STUDY AND INEVITABLY LONG DEBATE, IT WILL NOT BE SUBMITTED TO SENATE WITH CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION COMING ON." WILL IT BE RATIFIED BY REQUISITE TWO-THIRD VOTE? WRITING IN WASHINGTON POST, CHILDS SAID ONE MEASURE IS OPINION HORST EHMKE TOOK BACK TO BONN AFTER SAMPLING OPINION IN BOTH EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND CONGRESS. CHILDS SAID EHMKE, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FACTION IN BUNDESTAG AND FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, FOUND CONSIDERABLE PESSIMISM ON CAPITOL HILL ABOUT RATIFICATION OF SALT TWO TREATY. "THAT WAS CONFIRMED BY OPINION HE HEARD IN STATE DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE. JUST BEFORE HE RETURNED TO BONN HE LEFT NO UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHAT FAILURE ON SALT WOULD MEAN IN EUROPE: 'IT WOULD BE AN UNQUALIFIED DISASTER. IT WOULD MEAN RESUMPTION OF COLD WAR AND END OF HOPES FOR PEACEFUL WORLD FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE.'"

5. ROBIN KNIGHT, U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW, DISCUSSED SALT IN MAY 1 ISSUE OF MAGAZINE. HE SAID SOVIETS ARE INTERESTED IN SALT FOR SEVERAL REASONS: "FOR ONE THING, THEY'RE AFRAID OF COST OF NEW ROUND IN ARMS RACE AT TIME WHEN SOVIET ECONOMY IS LAGGING. ALSO, THEY SEE SALT AS INSTITUTIONALIZING THEIR RELATIONSHIP AS SUPERPOWER WITH U.S. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THEM

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FOR PRESTIGE PURPOSES. THEY ALSO SEE SALT AS LINCHPIN OF DETENTE -- AND DETENTE AFFORDS THEM ACCESS TO WESTERN TECHNOLOGY. FINALLY, SOVIETS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CHINA AND DANGER ULTIMATELY OF TWO-FRONT CONFRONTATION WITH

CHINA IN EAST AND NATO IN WEST. SALT MINIMIZES POSSIBILITY OF SUCH SITUATION DEVELOPING."

6. TAKASHI OKA OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR REPORTED

THAT EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF NATO HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR "VERY FIRM SUPPORT" FOR SALT NEGOTIATIONS. OKA SAID NATO REPRESENTATIVES WERE BRIEFED IN BRUSSELS YESTERDAY BY WARNKE. MONITOR CORRESPONDENT SAID RELATIONS AT TOP LEVEL BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE, SECRETARY BROWN AND THEIR RESPECTIVE EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS REMAIN EXCELLENT. "AND DESPITE CHIEF SALT NEGOTIATOR WARNKE'S REPUTATION AS 'DOVE,' THERE IS ADMIRATION AT NATO HEADQUARTERS FOR MR. WARNKE'S NEGOTIATING SKILLS AND FOR TENACIOUS COMPETENCE WITH WHICH HE CARRIES OUT HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON. NOR IS THERE ANY SERIOUS COMPLAINT THAT EUROPEANS ARE BEING LEFT OUT OF PICTURE. AMERICAN BRIEFINGS AT EVERY STAGE OF PROTRACTED SALT TALKS ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN THOROUGH AND SATISFYING." VANCE

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